

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A data transfer process apparatus which controls a data transfer in a device, comprising:

status obtaining means for obtaining status
5 information about a status of said device;

message obtaining means for obtaining a message according to the status information obtained by said status obtaining means:

transmission data generation means for generating
10 transmission data according to the message and destination information indicating a message destination;

electronic mail transmission means for transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data
15 generated by said transmission data generation means;

data generation means for generating data that indicates a setting screen displayed on an external apparatus, for setting said destination information; and

20 data transmission means for transmitting the data generated by said data generation means to the external apparatus.

2. The data transfer process apparatus according
25 to claim 1, further comprising

destination information storage means for storing information indicating a destination of electronic mail

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and information to be added to the electronic mail as said destination information.

3. The data transfer process apparatus according
5 to claim 1, wherein

said electronic mail transmission means transmits the electronic mail to a client apparatus through a mail server apparatus connected to a communications medium.

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4. The data transfer process apparatus according to claim 1, wherein:

said data transfer process apparatus is a network board connected to a printer; and

15 said message obtaining means obtains the message from the printer.

5. A data transfer process apparatus which controls a data transfer in a device, comprising:

20 information holding means for holding setting information set for transmission of an electronic mail containing a message in a natural language depending on status information about the device;

data generation means for generating data
25 indicating a setting screen of said setting information displayed on an external apparatus; and

data transmission means for transmitting the data

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generated by said data generation means to the external apparatus.

6. The data transfer process apparatus according
5 to claim 5, further comprising:

setting information obtaining means for obtaining
setting information transmitted from said external
apparatus; and

10 setting information holding means for holding the
setting information obtained by said setting
information obtaining means.

7. The data transfer process apparatus according
to claim 5, wherein
15 said setting information includes information
indicating a condition of transmitting said electronic
mail.

8. The data transfer process apparatus according
20 to claim 5, wherein
said setting information includes information
indicating a reply destination of said electronic mail.

9. The data transfer process apparatus according
25 to claim 5, wherein
said setting screen sets a pair of a reply address
of said electronic mail and a condition of transmitting

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10. The data transfer process apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

10 11. The data transfer process apparatus according
to claim 5, wherein

15 12. A data transfer process apparatus which
controls a data transfer in a device, comprising:

message obtaining means for obtaining a message
20 according to the status information obtained by said
status obtaining means:

transmission data generation means for generating
25 transmission data according to the message and the
destination information, and adding reply destination
information indicating a reply destination of the

electronic mail to the generated transmission data; and
electronic mail transmission means for
transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data
generated by said transmission data generation means.

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13. The data transfer process apparatus according
to claim 12, further comprising:

data generation means for generating data that
indicates a setting screen displayed on an external
10 apparatus, for setting the destination information and
the reply destination information; and

data transmission means for transmitting the data
generated by said data generation means to the external
apparatus.

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14. The data transfer process apparatus according
to claim 12, wherein

said storage means stores a reply address of
electronic mail.

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15. The data transfer process apparatus according
to claim 12, wherein

said data transfer process apparatus is a network
board connected to a printer.

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16. A device capable of communicating with an
external apparatus, comprising:

said electronic mail transmission means transmits the electronic mail to a client apparatus through a mail server apparatus connected to said communications medium.

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19. The device according to claim 16, wherein said device is a printer.

20. A data transfer process apparatus in a device,
10 which controls a data transfer in the device,
comprising:

information holding means for holding setting
information set for transmission of an electronic mail
containing a message in a natural language depending on
15 status information about the device;

data generation means for generating data
indicating a setting screen of the setting information
displayed on an external apparatus; and

data transmission means for transmitting the data
20 generated by said data generation means to the external
apparatus.

21. The device according to claim 20, further
comprising:

25 setting information obtaining means for obtaining
setting information transmitted from the external
apparatus; and

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setting information holding means for holding the setting information obtained by said setting information obtaining means.

5 22. The device according to claim 20, wherein said setting information includes information indicating a condition of transmitting the electronic mail.

10 23. The device according to claim 20, wherein said setting information includes information indicating a reply destination of the electronic mail.

15 24. The device according to claim 20, wherein said setting screen sets a pair of a reply address of the electronic mail and a condition of transmitting the electronic mail.

20 25. The device according to claim 20, wherein said message relates to a supplement of expendables used in said device, an exchange of expendables used in said device, or a process status of said device.

25 26. The device according to claim 20, wherein said device is a printer.

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27. A device capable of communicating with an external apparatus, comprising:

status obtaining means for obtaining status information about a status of said device;

5 message obtaining means for obtaining a message according to the status information obtained by said status obtaining means:

storage means for storing destination information indicating a destination of an electronic mail;

10 transmission data generation means for generating transmission data according to the message and the destination information, and adding reply destination information indicating a reply destination of the electronic mail to the generated transmission data; and

15 electronic mail transmission means for transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data generated by said transmission data generation means.

28. The device according to claim 27, further comprising:

data generation means for generating data that indicates a setting screen displayed on the external apparatus, for setting the destination information and the reply destination information; and

25 data transmission means for transmitting the data generated by said data generation means to the external apparatus.

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29. The device according to claim 27, wherein
said storage means stores a reply address of
electronic mail.

5 30. The device according to claim 27, wherein
said device is a printer.

31. A status notifying method for notification of
status information about a device by electronic mail,
10 comprising:

an information holding steps of holding setting
information set for transmission of an electronic mail
containing a message in a natural language depending on
status information about the device;

15 a data generating step of generating data
indicating a setting screen of the setting information
displayed on an external apparatus; and

a transmitting step of transmitting the data
generated by said data generating step to the external
20 apparatus.

32. The status notifying method according to claim
31, further comprising:

a setting information obtaining step of obtaining
25 setting information transmitted from the external
apparatus; and

a setting information holding step of holding the

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setting information obtained in said setting
information obtaining step.

33. The status notifying method according to claim
5 31, wherein

said setting information includes information
indicating a condition of transmitting the electronic
mail.

10 34. The status notifying method according to claim
31, wherein

said setting information includes information
indicating a reply destination of the electronic mail.

15 35. The status notifying method according to claim
31, wherein

said setting screen sets a pair of a reply address
of the electronic mail and a condition of transmitting
the electronic mail.

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36. The status notifying method according to claim
31, wherein

said message relates to a supplement of
expendables used in the device, an exchange of
25 expendables used in the device, or a process status of
the device.

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37. The status notifying method according to claim 31, wherein
said device is a printer.

- 5 38. A status notifying method for notification of status information about a device by electronic mail, comprising:
- a state obtaining step of obtaining status information about a status of the device;
 - 10 a message obtaining step of obtaining a message according to the status information obtained in said state obtaining step:
 - a storing step of storing destination information indicating a destination of electronic mail;
 - 15 a transmission data generating step of generating transmission data according to the message and the destination information, and adding reply destination information indicating a reply destination of the electronic mail to the generated transmission data; and
 - 20 an electronic mail transmitting step of transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data generated in said transmission data generating step.

39. The status notifying method according to claim 25 38, further comprising:
- a data generating step of generating data which is a setting screen displayed on an external apparatus,

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a data transmitting step of transmitting the data generated in said data generating step to the external apparatus.

41. The status notifying method, according to
claim 38 wherein
15 said device is a printer.

an information holding step of holding setting information set for transmission of electronic mail containing a message in a natural language depending on status information about the device;

25 a data generating step of generating data
indicating a setting screen of the setting information
displayed on an external apparatus; and

a data transmitting step of transmitting the data generated in said data generating step to the external apparatus.

5 43. A computer-readable storage medium storing a program used for notification of status information of a device by electronic mail, said program directing a computer to perform:

10 a state information obtaining step of obtaining status information about a status of the device;

 a message obtaining step of obtaining a message according to the status information obtained in said state obtaining step:

15 a storing step of storing destination information indicating a destination of an electronic mail;

 a transmission data generating step of generating transmission data according to the message and the destination information, and adding reply destination information indicating a reply destination of the
20 electronic mail to the generated transmission data; and

 an electronic mail transmitting step of transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data generated in said transmission data generating step.

25 44. A program for notification of a status information of a device by electronic mail used to direct a computer to perform:

 an information holding step of holding setting

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information set for transmission of an electronic mail containing a message in a natural language depending on status information about the device;

5 a data generating step of generating data indicating a setting screen of the setting information displayed on an external apparatus; and

a data transmitting step of transmitting the data generated in said data generating step to the external apparatus.

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45. A program for notification of a status information of a device by electronic mail used to direct a computer to perform:

15 a state obtaining step of obtaining status information about a status of the device;

a message obtaining step of obtaining a message according to the status information obtained in said state obtaining step:

20 a storing step of storing destination information indicating a destination of electronic mail;

a transmission generating step of generating transmission data according to the message and the destination information, and adding reply destination information indicating a reply destination of the electronic mail to the generated transmission data; and

25 an electronic mail transmitting step of transmitting as electronic mail the transmission data generated in said transmission data generating step.